

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
DIVISION OF ST. THOMAS AND ST. JOHN**

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|--|---|------------------------------|
| UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, |) | |
| |) | |
| Plaintiff, |) | |
| |) | |
| v. |) | Case No. 3:21-cr-0003 |
| |) | |
| BLAS SEBASTIAN PANZARDI DAVILA, |) | |
| |) | |
| Defendant. |) | |
| |) | |

ORDER

BEFORE THE COURT is the trial in this matter currently scheduled for September 13, 2021. For the reasons stated herein, the time to try this case is extended up to and including November 8, 2021.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chief Judge of the District Court of the Virgin Islands entered a general order concerning operations of the Court on March 17, 2020. The Chief Judge has thus far extended the order sixteen times, finding that the ends of justice require excluding March 18, 2020, through September 30, 2021, from the Speedy Trial count in all criminal matters.

To date, the COVID-19 virus has claimed more than 656,000 lives in the United States (65 of which have been in the U.S. Virgin Islands). COVID-19 continues to present an unpredictable threat to public health and safety, as shown in the recent surge in COVID-19 cases both in the continental United States and the Virgin Islands. As such, the Court finds that extending the period within which Defendant Davila may be tried under the Speedy Trial Act is necessary for the protection and well-being of the Defendant, the jury, the prosecutors, the witnesses, the Court's personnel, and the general public at large.

The premises considered, it is hereby

ORDERED that the time beginning from the date of this order granting an extension through November 8, 2021, **SHALL** be excluded in computing the time within which the trial in this matter must be initiated pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161; it is further

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ORDERED that the parties **SHALL** file and serve a pre-trial brief no later than November 1, 2021, which shall include the following: (a) proposed list of witnesses; (b) proposed list of exhibits; (c) estimated length of case-in-chief and case-in-defense; (d) proposed non-standard *voir dire* questions; and (e) proposed non-standard jury instructions related to the elements of the charges and defenses; it is further

ORDERED that the parties **SHALL** provide the Clerk of Court with a USB Flash Drive containing electronic versions of exhibits no later than November 3, 2021;¹ and it is further

ORDERED that the jury selection and trial in this matter **SHALL** commence promptly at 9:00 a.m. on November 8, 2021, in St. Thomas Courtroom 1.

Dated: September 10, 2021

/s/ Robert A. Molloy
ROBERT A. MOLLOY
Chief Judge

¹ Counsel are advised to consult with Court technical staff to determine the proper format for saving electronic versions of exhibits. The Government's trial exhibits shall be labelled sequentially beginning with Government's Exhibit 1. Defense exhibits shall be labelled sequentially beginning with Defense Exhibit A.